

REMARKS

1. In between the Office Interview of September 26, 2003 and the receipt of the Interview Summary on October 2, 2003, Applicant filed Amendment B dated October 1, 2003 which crossed in the mail with the Interview Summary.

2. Applicant generally agrees with the substance of the Interview Summary of the Examiner in connection with claim 1. As stated by the Examiner:

Applicant proposed an amendment that would recite two distinct parts of the desiccant container, one having a continuous diameter and a second having a protrusion for supporting the desiccant. The examiner advised that it appears that this recitation would distinguish over the JP '542 reference but would be considered to be a new issue after final that would require further search and consideration, and suggested a continuing application or RCE.

Applicant's summary is similar and proposes an amendment wherein the desiccant core casing includes a first portion having a constant diameter and a second portion having at least one protrusion engaging the desiccant core for holding the core in place.

3. In Amendment B, which crossed in the mail, Applicant cancelled claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 15-16 without prejudice observing that they may form part of the basis of a continuation application. Claims 3, 8-14 and 17-18 remained in the application, claims 10-14 being allowed and claims 3, 8, 9, 17 and 18 being considered by the Examiner as being allowable.

4. In due course, and as suggested by the Examiner, Applicant intends to file a continuing application or an RCE.

Respectfully submitted,

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